Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Peace Plan for Southwestern Africa Reported

FL2007235188 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Text] As was opportunely reported, the quadripartite meeting held in New York from 11 to 13 July with the participation of representatives from Angola, Cuba, South Africa, and the United States approved the "Principles for a Peaceful Solution in Southwestern Africa," subject to the approval of the governments of the first three countries mentioned above. The governments of Angola, Cuba, and South Africa conveyed their complete agreement to the Government of the United States, in its role as mediator in these negotiations, on a document that is an important step along the road to a negotiated solution ot the conflict in the southwestern region of Africa. Based on this understanding, negotiations will continue during the first week of August in Geneva. The following is the document that was approved:

The governments of the People's Republic of Angola, the Republic of Cuba, and the Republic of South Africa have reached agreement on a number of essential principles establishing the basis of peace in southwestern Africa. All governments recognize that each one of these principles is indispensable for the achievement of a general solution.

A. Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435/78. The sides should agree and recommend to the UN secretary general a date for the beginning of the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435/78.

B. The governments of the People's Republic of Angola and the Republic of South Africa should, in accordance with the principles of UN Security Council Resolution 435/78, cooperate with the secretary general with a view to ensuring the independence of Namibia through free and fair elections, while abstaining from any measure that might hinder the implementation of the aforesaid resolution.

C. Movement to the north, and phased and total withdrawal of Cuban troops from the territory of the People's Republic of Angola on the basis of accord between Angola and Cuba, and the decision by both states to request the on-site verification of that withdrawal by the UN Security Council.

D. Respect for the sovereignty, sovereign equality, and independence of states, and territorial integrity and inviolability of borders.

E. Noninterference in the internal affairs of states.

F. Abstention from the threat or utilization of force against the territorial integrity and independence of states.

G. The acceptance of responsibility by states not to permit their territories to be used in acts of war, aggression, or violence against other states.

H. Reaffirmation of the right of the peoples of southwestern Africa to self-determination, independence, and equality of rights.

I. Verification and control of the implementation of obligations resulting from accords that may be signed.

J. Commitment to comply in good faith with the obligations undertaken in accords that may be established and to resolve disputes through negotiations.

K. Recognition of the role of the permanent members of the UN Security Council as guarantors for the implementation of accords that may be signed.

L. Right to peace, development, and social progress.

M. African and international cooperation for the resolution of problems concerning the development of southwestern Africa.

N. Recognition of the mediating role of the U.S. Government.

New York, 13 July

Date of Geneva Talks Noted

FL2007195888 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1932 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Text] Today the Swiss authorities confirmed that a new round of quadripartite negotiation talks at the experts level among Cuba, Angola, the United States, and South Africa will be held from 2 to 4 August in Geneva.

This is the fourth round of talks in the search for a peaceful solution to the conflict in the southwestern region of Africa, following the talks held in London, Cairo, and New York. On 13 July, the four parties met at the experts meeting in New York to discuss the need to come up with a basic document containing the principles for a just and peaceful resolution of the problem created by the racist interference in the internal affairs of Angola and the occupation of Namibia.

The Swiss Government stated it is convinced a definitive step can be taken in Geneva toward a resolution of the conflict and that the parties will show political will to negotiate.

Aldana Meets UN High Commissioner for Namibia

FL1907154888 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Text] Carlos Aldana, secretary of the PCC Central Committee, has met at the United Nations with the UN High Commissioner for Namibia, (Bernard Carlson). During their exchange, Aldana briefed (Carlson) on Cuba's point of view concerning the progress toward a negotiated solution to the conflict in southwest Africa.

The Cuban leader said that the application of UN Security Council Resolution 435, which establishes the ways and methods for attaining Namibia's independence, is a fundamental part in settling the conflict in that area of the southern cone of Africa.

'Displeasure' Over U.S. Interests Section Party

PA2007232488 Paris AFP in Spanish 2153 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Text] Havana, 20 Jul (AFP)—On Tuesday John Taylor, head of the U.S. Interests Section in Havana, was summoned by the Cuban Foreign Ministry. He was informed of the Cuban Government's displeasure over a cocktail party hosted at the residence of a member of that diplomatic mission.

The cocktail party was held last week at the residence of Press Attache Jerry Scott. According to U.S. sources, several members of the Cuban Human Rights Committee (CCDH) and former political prisoners were at the cocktail party.

In response, Cuba cancelled the visa it had issued for Florida Democratic Senator Dan Mica to visit the U.S. Interests Section in Havana. Mica's mission, which was to begin on Wednesday, was related to security problems at the U.S. Interests Section. It was also linked to the 1987 expulsion of several members of that office for espionage and to the discovery in February of romantic relationships between Cuban girls and the Marines in charge of protecting the mission, relationships which are prohibited. According to these sources, the Cuban Foreign Ministry implicitly accused the U.S. Interests Section of organizing anti-Castro dissident groups in Havana.

The Cuban Foreign Ministry voiced its displeasure over the cocktail party held at Jerry Scott's residence. Members of the CCDH, led by Ricardo Bofill, attended. Cuban law does not recognize the group. Taylor, top officials of the U.S. Interests Section, and some 30 artists and intellectuals were also there.

Sources at the U.S. diplomatic mission rejected the Cuban charge. They noted that the cocktail party was a regular social activity of the mission. They added that during the cocktail party, people naturally talked about current events.

The Cuban reaction aroused surprise and dismay among personnel at the U.S. Interests Section. Since reopening last fall, it has succeeded in changing its image, which had been tainted by accusations against some of its personnel during an unprecedented television campaign.

Castro Meets Cambodia's Heng Samrin on Arrival

FL2007161388 [Editorial Report] Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish at 1552 GMT on 20 July carries live coverage of the arrival of Heng Samrin, secretary general of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party [KPRP] and chairman of the Council of State of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, from Havana's Jose Marti International Airport.

Radio Rebelde Announcer Douglas Fernandez reports that the Cambodian official has arrived on a TU-154 Cubana de Aviacion plane.

"Heng Samrin is responding to an invitation extended by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, who is standing at the foot of the airplane ramp receiving the Cambodian official," says Fernandez.

The Cuban and Cambodian national anthems are played at 1552 GMT, officially beginning the welcoming ceremony. "Hundreds of Havana residents are present here on behalf of the Cuban people," says Fernandez. The announcer further reports that members of the PCC Politburo and Secretariat and the Council of State, as well as members of the diplomatic corps, are also present at the ceremony.

Official Talks Begin

FL2107020988 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Jul 88

[Text] Today official talks between Cambodia and Cuba began at the Palace of the Revolution in this capital. The delegation from the brother nation is headed by Heng Samrim, secretary general of the KPRP and chairman of the Council of State of the PRK, and the Cuban side is headed by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers.

Moments earlier, the distinguished Cambodian visitor and the high-ranking delegation accompanying him placed a flower wreath at the foot of the monument to the national hero Jose Marti in Revolution Square. Heng Samrin was accompanied by Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the PCC Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the PCC Central Committee.

Earlier, our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro received Comrade Heng Samrin at the Jose Marti International Airport, where he arrived from Nicaragua. The Cambodian leader and his delegation are visiting our country at the invitation of the commander in chief.

The distinguished visitor will attend activities marking the occasion of the 35th anniversary of the Moncada Barracks assault, to be celebrated in Santiago de Cuba.

The PRK has more than 6 million inhabitants and is located next to Vietnam and Laos on the Indochinese peninsula. Cuba established diplomatic relations with the former kingdom of Cambodia on 6 July 1960. The relations were interrupted during the tyranny of Pol Pot and resumed after the liberation of the country on 11 January 1979. The existing relations between the two nations are developing at the highest level with regard to economic, scientific, and technical cooperation.

Heng Samrin Decorated

FL2107025588 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0232 GMT 21 Jul 88

[Text] Heng Samrin, secretary general of the KPRP Central Committee, was decorated with the Jose Marti Order, presented by the Council of State to Cuban and foreign citizens for great feats on behalf of peace and humanity.

Heng Samrin, who is also chairman of the PRK Council of State, received the decoration from the hands of Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers of Cuba.

Speaking at the ceremony, held at the Palace of the Revolution, Jose Ramon Balaguer, secretary of the PCC Central Committee, recalled the anguish and the genocide the Cambodian people suffered during the years of terror introduced by the Pol Pot group (?Khmers Serei). Balaguer emphasized the achievements attained by the people of that nation since the victory of 7 January 1979, and the efforts to reach a national reconciliation.

Castro Message to Nicaragua on Anniversary

PA1907221488 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1314 GMT 19 Jul 88

Message from Fidel Castro Ruz, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, to Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega—date not given]

[Text] Dear Comrade Daniel Ortega Saavedra, commander of the revolution, president of the Republic of Nicaragua, and coordinator of the FSLN National Directorate Executive Committee; Dear National Directorate comrades:

On the occasion of the 9th anniversary of the triumph of the Sandinist people's revolution, as an expression of the deep feelings of brotherhood and solidarity that join both our peoples, I am pleased to express to you, to all Sandinist fighters, and to the Nicaraguan people our most warm and sincere congratulations.

The always hostile U.S. Administration has tried in vain to destroy the Sandinist revolution through its meddling and antirevolutionary policies. For this reason, the struggle being fought by Sandino's best children in the military, political, economic, and diplomatic fields is not just a struggle to preserve the conquests of the peoples' power and to stop the war of aggression, but it is also a struggle for the right of all the peoples for freedom and progress to choose their own destiny and to free themselves from imperialist tutelage and exploitation.

Once more, the Sandinist revolution proves that the peoples do not fear death when they fight to free themselves from the yoke of exploitation. The band of Somozist murderers organized, financed, and led by the U.S. Government have not and cannot destroy the revolution. The Sandinst government has provided an example of flexibility in foreign policy for the carrying out of the Central American peace plans; however, the Reagan administration stubbornly continues to maintain its aggressive policy and cannot understand that not even the slander campaigns, the terror, nor all the millions of dollars that it gives the mercenary bands can destroy the Sandinist revolution.

One people, one vanguard, and one directorate, together, with the solidairty of all the peace-loving peoples and the world's progressive forces, will be the guarantee that no one or no thing will be able to turn it aside from its historic heading.

I take this opportunity to express to you our satisfaction with the visit of the delegation led by Comrade President Daniel Ortega. The fruitful exchanges are proof of the indestructible ties of friendship that unite our peoples. Nicaragua, as always, can count on the Cuban people's unbending internationalist aid.

[Signed] Fidel Castro Ruz, Cuban President of the Councils of State and Ministers, and the Government of the Republic of Cuba

Castro Congratulates Mexico's Salinas

FL2007133688 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Text] Cuban President Fidel Castro has sent a message to Carlos Salinas de Gortari, winner of the presidential election in Mexico. Fidel wishes success to Salinas de Gortari in his honorable task of leading the destiny of his people. The message also says that Cuba and Mexico are united by the deep feelings of Latin American brotherhood and a beautiful tradition of friendship and common principles.

Rodriguez Receives New Soviet Ambassador

FL2007135288 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Text] Cuban Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez has received in a solemn ceremony the new Soviet ambassador to Cuba, Yuriy Vadimovich Petrov, who presented his credentials. Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca also participated in the ceremony.

Castro Inaugurates Science Academy Reading Room

FL1907194288 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro has made a speech at the ceremony held in the National Capitol, home of the Cuban Academy of Sciences [ACC], where he inaugurated the Reading Room of the National Library of Science and Technology and the Reference Room, the former Library of the Cuban Senate. He also visited an exhibit of the ACC's achievements in technology [words indistinct].

[Begin Castro recording] [Chants of "Fidel, Fidel"] Thus this building has a [words indistinct] value. We are particularly happy because of the use this room will get. When I saw this, once restored, I told myself, well, if we had known, we might have been able to hold our reception for the nonaligned here at the Capitol. But the statue was practically falling down. We couldn't have done it. [chuckles] The place is just beautiful now.

As I was saying, what makes us feel really good is knowing that this floor is going to be used for the Library of Science and Technology. This is the Reading Room. I am sure that the day will come when there won't be enough room for all the readers who will want to come here.

It's true that there was an exhibit and we went through it too fast. We would have liked to see more but there was not too much time. However, we have been able to see the work of the scientists, the library collective. I can say, or I should say, that we can be proud of this institution that we inaugurated today. Fatherland or death! [crowd answers: "We will win!"] [applause] [end recording]

During his visit, the commander in chief praised the restoration work carried out by the contingent of retirees named after the sixth construction congress and Carlos J. Finlay. Accompanied by Rosa Elena Simeon and other party and state leaders, he visited the exhibit showing the main scientific and technological achievements of the ACC institutes.

Ciego de Avila Area Attains Defense Stage 2

FL1907164788 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Text] Zone 06 of Colorado in Baragua municipality, Ciego de Avila, is the first in the province to attain the ready for defense, second stage, since Ciego de Avila received the ready for defense banner, first stage, at the end of April.

During a ceremony of the masses and after one of the best exercises conducted by a battalion of militia members of this zone, the certificate and trophy accrediting the municipality as having attained this stage were presented.

The solemn, patriotic ceremony also served as a point of reference for the combative and internationalist task of our brothers in Angola, as reflected by Cuban television.

[Begin recording of man in uniform] The effort, sacrifice, and bravery with which Cubans are confronting the South African enemy and counterrevolutionary bands in Angola sets an example for all militia members and all defense and production brigade members in the zone to fulfill their tasks. This has made it possible for us to be the first municipality in our province to declare ourselves ready for defense, second stage. [end recording]

5 Killed, 150 Poisoned From Methyl Alcohol

FL1807211688 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1945 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] Five people died and another 150 were hospitalized as a result of ingestion of methyl alcohol and other toxic substances by residents of Nuevitas, Camaguey, during the weekend.

The deceased are 41-year old Fidel Rodriguez Batista, 46-year old Andres Gustino Zamora, 53-year old Armando Sariengo Romero, 70-year old Armando Montenegro, and 34-year old Linda Nieves Gutierrez.

The other people who were intoxicated are under medical care at hospitals and specialized centers in Havana City, Holguin, Las Tunas, Santiago de Cuba, Sancti Spiritus, and Nuevitas, Camguey.

The methyl alcohol that killed 5 people and intoxicated another 150 was removed by irresponsible individuals from refrigerated railroad cars temporarily stationed at the Nuevitas railroad yard.

Haiti

Lafontant Joseph Funeral Held 'in Secret'

FL1907133688 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Text] In Port-au-Prince, Haiti, a slain human rights activist was buried yesterday without official ceremony. Lafontant Joseph was stabbed to death on July 10th in what is thought to be a political killing. The priest who was to conduct his funeral refused to do so after receiving a threatening telephone call. It was later held in secret despite opposition party plans to make it a large public funeral.

Way of Burial Protested

FL1907143888 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Mr Lafontant Joseph, the Haitian leader murdered 8 days ago, was buried in the Port-au-Prince cemetery on Saturday morning in the presence of a certain number of friends and relatives and a few representatives of political and trade union circles. There was no religious service and everything was done very discreetly.

The religious ceremony is scheduled for tomorrow, Tuesday, 19 July. The time and place have not as yet been announced by the family council, which says it is aware of the national dimension of Lafontant Joseph, who does not belong only to his family but belongs also to all those for whom he struggled.

The Committee for Vigilance Against Evildoers [Komite Vigilans Kont Move Je—Kovitmoje] protests the way Mr Joseph was buried, almost in secret.

We read the following from a press release:

[Announcer, in Creole] Kovitmoje asks if Mr Lafontant Joseph is an indigent, a dog without a master. It was Saturday morning over the radio that we heard that the funeral service for this freedom fighter was going to take place at Sacre Coeur Church.

We remind listeners that there was in fact no religious service at Sacre Coeur and that Mr Joseph was in fact buried without any religious ceremony.

Kovitmoje says it is asking Lafontant Joseph's family for an explanation on the following points: Why wasn't the population informed on Saturday morning that the funeral service was going to be held? Why had the family chosen to hold the service at Sacre Coeur?

It is being said that it was because of a threat that the rest of his family would undergo the same fate as Mr Joseph. If this is true, says Kovitmoje, why didn't the family inform the population and stop the funeral? We the people would have organized the funeral of our combatant.

Kovitmoje says further that it will not forgive anyone who prevents the people from going out into the streets to pay a last tribute to a combatant such as Mr Lafontant Joseph. Mr Joseph is a hero, says Kovitmoje.

Kovitmoje adds that it will pay Mr Joseph a last tribute and that the people will show the death squad at this time that we will not be deterred by the crosses with which they may mark people's doors. Our determination has already liberated Haiti from evildoers.

Kovitmoje asks the people to remain watchful and mobilized while awaiting the organization of the symbolic funeral for Mr Joseph, which the people should attend in solidarity, without a glance backwards.

The family council has decided to hold this symbolic funeral tomorrow morning. [passage omitted]

1,000 Attend Mass

FL2007211788 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1830 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Excerpts] Many people attended a big ceremony this morning at Saint Jean Bosco Church to pay final tribute to Mr Lafontant Joseph, who was buried last Saturday in the manner that everyone knows about. Our reporter, Morrison Charles, was present and will give us details.

[Charles] [Passage omitted] There was a big religious ceremony at Saint Jean Bosco Church today in memory of this human rights militant, who was found dead on 11 July. Representatives of several democratic organizations, political parties, trade unions, and religious organizations were present at the ceremony. There were nearly 1,000 people there.

In his homily, Father [Jean Bertrand] Aristide, who said the mass, highlighted the role Mr Joseph was playing in the struggle for liberation being waged in Haiti—a struggle in which Mr Joseph denounced, condemned, and took a stand against an entire system oppressing the Haitian people. That is why, said Father Aristide, Mr Joseph is not fully dead. He has left behind a number of ideas and examples that many are going to follow to one day overturn the system of corruption and repression that is taking center stage in Haiti.

[Begin Aristide recording, in progress] ...Mr Lafontant Joseph's sister said at the cemetery on Saturday that even if there were a wind of fear blowing, the force of the convictions held by her brother had entered her blood. As they shoveled dirt on the coffin, she could not help crying out once again at the cemetery: There is no room in the picture for macoutes. [crowd shouts: "There is no room in the picture."]

When today, in the name of the strength of Jesus, we say that there is no room in the picture for macoutes, we are not just idly tossing words around. First it will be me, and then another, and another. It is for real. We reject the corruption (?rampant) among the macoute Duvalierists who are running the country. When we say this, we are not just making a gratuitous statement but rather giving our lives, while saying it with our mouths. We agree to continue putting the country back on the path of justice, of freedom, of solidarity, which doesn't have anything to do with any vile imperialists. If it had not been for the vile imperialists, the Americans, tolerating these vile, corrupt governments, today the macoutes

would not be flaunting their presence in people's faces; the vile Duvalierists would not today be flaunting their presence in people's faces. [applause]

Lafontant Joseph is gone, but not entirely, because there is a torch that has been passed on. Lafontant Joseph is gone, but he has not entirely disappeared, because there is a generation that is sick to its stomach with the vile corruption being (?sown) in all the ministries by the Haitian Army, when it installs a bunch of people who are incompetent, who are (?swimming) in corruption in the ministries. [applause]

Lafontant Joseph is gone, but Jesus is here. Jesus is sanctification. He is here for the purification of a corrupt system, purification of a country that is rotten because of the people in it who have no conscience. Jesus has come to say that Lafontant Joseph is alive. He lives in every Haitian who, in the name of his faith or of his faith in his country, is willing to do as Mr Joseph did out of love for all those who are poor, for all those who are under the table, for all those who love truth. Out of love for all of these people, who refuse to bow their heads to the foreign imperialists, he has come to once again say, gather those convictions and let them circulate through your (?veins), so that you can come out of that celebration purified, sanctified, so that you can walk the straight path and make the nation walk the straight path. Let us call on the strength of the Holy Spirit to descend upon all Haiti.... [fades out; end recording] [passage omitted].

Special Finance Ministry Committee Created

FL1807184188 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] A special committee to study budgetary resources has just been formed in the Finance Ministry. Together with the public administration and the public sector, this committee is to study measures that can increase the nation's budgetary resources for the fiscal year 1988-89.

The committee is made up of: Mr Fritz Vialla, chairman; (Georges Henri Fils), reporter; Gabriel Verret; (Patrick Charles); (Reynald Laplanche); (Sylvain Lafalaise); (Franck Helmek); and (Vladimir Francois).

The chairman's role is to guide and coordinate the work to identify the weaknesses of the means currently available to finance the government's needs and to formulate useful recommendations.

This is a press release from the Ministry of Information and Coordination.

Jamaica

Seaga To Meet Manley on 'Upsurge' of Violence

FL2007141988 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1330 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Text] A Jamaica House release says Prime Minister Edward Seaga is expected to call an urgent meeting with PNP [People's National Party] President Michael Manley this morning to discuss what he called the recent upsurge in violent attacks by the PNP against JLP [Jamaica Labor Party] supporters.

The release said that [words indistinct] there had been a series of incidents, the most recent of which occurred yesterday in Gregory Park. [Kingston Domestic Service in English at 1230 GMT on 20 July reports that "the peace talks between the Jamaica Labor Party and the People's National Party have been suspended."]

Political Supporters Clash; Injuries Reported

FL1907121788 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Text] At least 24 people have been injured in fighting in Jamaica between supporters of the major political candidates in the upcoming election. The battles began late Sunday after a ruling party convention in which Prime Minister Edward Seaga had appealed to his supporters not to engage in fighting with the opposition support. Police reported fighting in 6 of the 13 districts.

Free Elections 'Almost Impossible To Ensure'

FL2007120188 Bridgetown CANA in English 0506 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, July 20, CANA—Incompetent and corrupt officials frustrate some of the measures aimed at ensuring free and fair elections in Jamaica, says the chairman of the independent body that oversees voting. Professor Gladstone Mills also told a Kiwanis Club function on Tuesday that violence and strong-arm tactics made it almost impossible to ensure free elections in a few urban constituencies.

Mills is the chairman of the Electoral Advisory Committee—a body made of members of the two major parties as well as independents appointed by the governor general. The committee has introduced a wide range of measures to ensure the integrity of elections, including the use of voter identification cards. But Mills said that some of the efforts were undermined because of the quality of the staff it has been able to recruit to man the electoral system.

"Considerable difficulty is experienced in recruiting competent, honest, and impartial officials, especially for work such as enumerators, presiding officers and poll clerks," said Mills, a professor in public administration at the University of the West Indies.

Despite the best efforts of the committee to weed out activists and the inept, Mills said it still suffered from the overly partisan and ill-educated.

Some of this came from the poor pay offered to election officials and fear. Qualified persons, he pleaded, should offer themselves as election officials or the system would be undermined.

"If we allow the subversion of the system to escalate, one of the essential pillars of democracy in Jamaica will be perverted and eventually destroyed," Mills said.

But at the same time Mills did not discount the violence, intimidation and fear, mainly in a handful of areas in the capital, that made the process unfair and caused officials to shy away.

"Violence and intimidation stalk certain communities and it is almost impossible to ensure free and fair elections in areas dominated by one party where there is bitter and intense fighting for dominance," he said.

In few constituencies, amounting to no more than two percent of over 6,000 polling stations, stealing and stuffing of ballots occured, Mills said. But even two percent of the overall amount was too much, he said.

Police Official Shot; Constable Killed

FL1907142588 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1330 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Text] A deputy superintendent of police was shot and injured by two gunmen at about 1240 this morning as he was about to enter his home in (Jamestown). According to reports, Deputy Superintendent Pierce [words indistinct] and as he was about to enter his home, he was pounced upon by two men who opened fire on him, hitting him in the right side of the buttocks and the right leg. Mr Pierce returned the fire but his attackers escaped. He was taken to a hospital, where he was admitted in a stable condition.

And special constable H. Grum attached to the Mobile Reserve Unit was shot and killed by gunmen last night in the vicinity of the [name indistinct] Club along [words indistinct]. Constable Grum was among a group of policemen on duty who stopped in the vicinity of the club to check on a minibus when two men on motorcycle reportedly opened fire on them.

Constable Grum [words indistinct] last week.

Voter Registry Chief Denies Election Fraud

PA2007115988 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 16 Jul 88 p 3

[Unattributed article]

[Excerpt] Jose Newman Valenzuela, director of the Mexican National Voter Registry (RNE), has vigorously denied that the RNE altered voter lists through computer programs to conduct "a great cybernetic fraud," as Manuel J. Clouthier alleged, in a hearing at the Mexican Attorney General's Office. In his appearance before Attorney General Sergio Ramirez, RNE Director Newman asked the attorney general to summon National Action Party candidate Clouthier for him to present overwhelming proof of the charges presented against Newman.

RNE Director Newman appeared before the attorney general to inform Ramirez of the procedures involved in the compilation of the voter lists used in the 6 July elections. Newman delivered a report to the attorney general carefully describing the procedures for compilation of the voter lists as well as the reports presented by the RNE to the public.

Newman said Clouthier had provided no explanation as to why he claimed that inspection of RNE voter lists shows "clumsy alteration [that can be]...clearly demonstrated." [passage omitted]

Salinas Congratulated on Election Victory

PA1907171588 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 19 jul 88

[Text] The heads of state and government of the Soviet Union, Great Britain, Japan, and Argentina have sent messages congratulating Carlos Salinas de Gortari for his victory in the 6 July presidential elections.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev expressed confidence that the friendly relations between the Soviet Union and Mexico will develop constructively in all areas for the benefit of the peoples of both countries and to strengthen international peace and security.

The prime ministers of Great Britain and Japan, Margaret Thatcher and Noboru Takeshita, respectively, and Argentine President Raul Alfonsin extended to Salinas de Gortari their most cordial congratulations on his victory in the presidential elections.

The PRI candidate was also congratulated by the Independent Peasants Central Organization and the Trade Union Association of Airplane Pilots [Asociacion Sindical de Pilotos Aviadores].

Government Hits OPEC 'Lack of Discipline'

PA1907214088 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 16 Jul 88 pp 1, 13

[Report by Miguel Badillo]

[Text] Yesterday the Mexican Government sent a protest note to OPEC over the lack of discipline of several OPEC members. According to the protest note, several OPEC members have violated established OPEC agreements for maintining the stability of the international oil market. The protest note added that this has kept oil prices from reaching expected levels due to overproduction.

Fernando Hiriart, Mexican secretary of energy, mines, and parastate industries, sent a note to OPEC Secretary General Subroto—a former Indonesian oil minister—expressing Mexico's concern over the situation and requesting the cooperation of all OPEC members to stabilize the international oil market.

In his note, Hiriart said that President Miguel de la Madrid's administration has actively supported OPEC measures to stabilize the international oil market. Hiriart noted that unilateral decisions have been made that contravene the collaboration and discipline expected from all OPEC members.

Hiriart's note added that the Mexican Government welcomes Subroto's efforts as OPEC secretary general in seeking the cooperation of all OPEC members to stabilize the international oil market. Hiriart also congratulated Subroto for his recent appointment as the organization's secretary general.

In his message, Hiriart stressed that Subroto's broad experience in the international oil market, as well as his well-known ability as a negotiator, "will greatly contribute to his success as head of the organization."

Finally, Hiriart expressed his satisfaction over Subroto's upcoming visit to Mexico, which is scheduled for 17 August.

Honduras

Attack on U.S. Soldiers Under Investigation

PA2007184088 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1120 GMt 20 Jul 88

[Text] Lieutenant Colonel Jose Francisco Solorzano, regional director of the Department of National Investigation, DIN, announced that the criminal attack perpetrated at dawn on Sunday against five members of the U.S. Army as they left Confetti's discotheque is under investigation. Col Solorzano said he could not provide further details for fear it would hinder the investigation. He did not, nevertheless, dismiss the possibility that one of the three attackers, who used a white pickup truck, may have been a Nicaraguan.

A discotheque employee said he recognized a dark-skinned Nicaraguan among the three attackers because he frequently saw him in the area where the attack took place. When asked about this, Col Solorzano said that anything is possible, but that the matter is under investigation. He regretted the public's lack of cooperation in cases such as this one, noting that very often witnesses refuse to file reports for fear of reprisals on the criminals' part.

Solorzano also announced that a team of U.S. technical investigators covering the case sent him a report on their investigation, although, he explained, the DIN is working on its own. Col Solorzano took advantage of this interview to deny reports that he has closed his doors to reporters. He also denied that DIN agents fear reprisals for investigating cases such as this one.

5 Suspects Arrested

PA2007214988 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 19 Jul 88 p 4

[Excerpts] Yesterday at 0900 San Pedro Sula Third Criminal Judge Ruben Dario Mateo began the investigation into the terrorist attack on nine U.S. soldiers, which ocurred early Sunday morning in front of the headquarters of the 105th Infantry Brigade. [passage omitted]

Judge Mateo Galan said: "At this time we cannot say who is responsible for this crime because this case is being investigated. We will use every legal means in the investigation, like summoning witnesses or the alleged perpetrators of this criminal action."

The judge also said the Third Criminal Court, of which he is temporarily in charge, will ask the police for the evidence they may have in this case, which is a matter of "public order."

He added that "the summary proceedings will tell us who is involved in this action, and then we can continue with the trial."

The judge did not dare to term this incident a terrorist action by guerrilla groups or by common criminals because, according to him, it would be irresponsible to give an opinion without having conducted the appropriate investigations.

Yesterday morning EL HERALDO reporters tried to interview Lieutenant Jose Ismael Colindres, chief of the DIN Intelligence Division, but he refused to talk with the reporters. [passage omitted]

Nevertheless, it was learned that the DIN northwest branch arrested five suspects Sunday morning. Their names, however, were not given because "the suspects are undergoing intense interrogation."

The 105th Infantry Brigade command also began investigating this case in coordination with the DIN because the attack occurred in front of the 105th Brigade headquarters.

Government Condemns Attack

PA2107005388 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 19 Jul 88 p 2

[Excerpt] Yesterday the Honduran Government condemned the attack on U.S. soldiers stationed in Honduras, who were attacked with firearms and a grenade when leaving a discotheque in San Pedro Sula on Sunday.

Presidential House Press Secretariat Lisandro Quesada said: "This was a contemptible act, a violent act all citizens must reject," because it is improper.

The presidential spokesman said the [government] hoped the attack on the U.S soldiers, who are members of the "Bravo" Task Force stationed in Palmerola, and the attack on the residence of (retired) General Daniel Bali Castillo last Sunday are not indicative of an escalation of violence in Honduras. He added that the government hoped that these acts were isolated incidents. Quesada asked Honduran citizens to work for peace and not to cooperate with those who advocate violence, since all Hondurans, not just a particular group, condemn violence.

Quesada said that he does not yet have sufficient information to give his opinion on this case. He added, however, that the attack was harmful to a nation that is striving to maintain public peace and order.

Quesada also asked Hondurans to not arouse ill feelings against foreigners, no matter why they are in Honduras, since this would hinder the internal development policy of the current administration. [passage omitted]

Azcona on Trip to El Salvador, C.A. Summit

PA2107020688 Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish 0100 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Passages in quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Today the president of the Republic gave the country his version of the brief visit he paid to El Salvador. He did not meet with reporters last night when he returned because he was very tired. Today Honduran President Jose Azcona spoke about his trip to El Salvador and about his conversations with Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte. Even though this was a courtesy visit, both presidents discussed subjects concerning the Central American region. They discussed, for example, a probable Central American presidents summit, to which President Azcona would not be opposed.

[Azcona] "I do not mean that I am not in favor of any more summit meetings. I simply do not feel this is the most appropriate time for a summit, especially now that there has been a reversal of the internal process in Nicaragua.

[Reporter] "The presidential summit would perhaps help [words indistinct].

[Azcona] "If this were a problem between states, then I would say yes, perhaps the presidential meeting would help. The problem, however, is not one between two states. The problem is a domestic one in the case of Nicaragua and also in the case of El Salvador. There is also a bilateral situation; however, it is not between Central American countries but between a Central American country and the United States. So I do not feel we can resolve anything with a presidents summit [words indistinct] bilateral relations with a country outside the region. So I do not see that we can contribute anything."

President Azcona is concerned about the latest terrorist actions in this country.

[Azcona] "I think there is cause for concern. We are worried because it would seem that these were premeditated actions, especially the incident at Tela [words indistinct] an explosive device and the attack early Sunday morning in San Pedro Sula. I feel something like that responds to a planned course of action. In view of this, the security forces, as part of the Armed Forces, and the Armed Forces themselves, have to see to it that there is order in the country. It is not unlikely that some arrests will have to be made, above all those [words indistinct]."

President Azcona spoke—again—about the nondevaluation of the lempira.

[Azcona] "Of course there is a de facto devaluation, but I feel this situation is not going to last very long, especially if we reach agreements with the World Bank and the IMF, and also on the (?national budget). We want the Honduran people to understand this situation. Certain measures must be taken, and some of them have already been taken. For instance, the executive agreement on austerity has already been issued, the monetary program has been approved, [words indistinct] the draft bills are being discussed in Congress, some tax exemptions are being suspended, and taxes are being levied on some fiscal credits. [Words indistinct] then we are going to be able to sign an agreement with the World Bank and the IMF [words indistinct], and in December we will have a $200 million income that will satisfy the demand for [words indistinct].

[Reporter] "How do you feel about a Republican or Democratic victory in the United States?

[Azcona] "For whoever becomes president of the United States, the security of the nation will be a vitally important matter. So I do not agree with those who believe that if Dukakis becomes president, U.S. foreign policy vis a vis Nicaragua will change much. Anyone who thinks that is mistaken. The United States looks after its own security, regardless of whether a Democrat or a Republican is president. He will act with U.S. interests in mind. There are those who believe that since President Carter was in the White House when the Sandinists came into power, then the Democrats must support Sandinism. The truth is Somoza would have fallen no matter who was president, because the Nicaraguan people—and when I say the people, I mean the entire Nicaraguan people from all social levels—were no longer willing to let the Somozas continue to rule that country after 45 years of doing so."

These were President Azcona's main statements today at the Presidential Palace after his return from El Salvador.

Nicaragua

Party Figures on Ortega Revolution-Day Speech

PA2107042688 [Editorial Report] Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish at 1930 GMT on 20 July carries a 15-minute report on the reaction of various political party leaders to the "new" peace proposals made by President Daniel Ortega on 19 July in Juigalpe during the celebration of the 9th anniversary of the Sandinist revolution.

The announcer says Dr Luis Humberto Guzman, assistant secretary general of the Popular Social Christian Party, does not like the proposals "because civic opposition parties were not taken into consideration and because the country's political conditions are not suitable." Dr Guzman says: "With limits on the media, including sanctions on the newspaper LA PRENSA and the indefinite closing of Radio Catolica and the 'El Despertar' newscast, nongovernment sectors are limited in our ability to express ourselves and make our viewpoints known." Dr Guzman notes that in his speech, President Ortega made the "usual mistake of addressing only either the U.S. Government or the counterrevolutionaries, completely ignoring the domestic civic opposition."

The announcer reports that Nicaraguan Socialist Party leader Domingo Sanchez has also said that yesterday's presidential speech should have emphasized a bilateral dialogue between the government and the country's political parties and not only talks with the contras and the United States. Sanchez explains that this is his "personal" point of view since the party has not yet met to discuss the speech.

The announcer cites Carlos Cuadra Cuadra, a deputy of the "radical" Marxist-Leninist Party, as saying President Ortega's speech adds nothing new since it only spoke about the capitalists' recovery of their normal earning power as a result of the economic measures implemented in June. Cuadra says that the Sandinist government is looking for a "capitalist solution to the crisis; a solution that shifts all the weight of the crisis to the Nicaraguan workers. President Ortega also reaffirmed the Sandinist government's support of negotiating the country's political future with the counterrevolutionary forces; supposing that the Sapoa agreement and the talks held in the Camino Real Hotel were, basically, of a political nature and not of a technical nature and to discuss a cease-fire, as the Sandinist government had originally announced."

The announcer ends his report citing Absalon Pastora, an alternate deputy of the Independent Liberal Party, as saying that yesterday's presidential speech contained nothing new since it was a continuation of the Sandinist speeches that began on 19 July 1979.

RN Blames Government for Santo Domingo Blast

PA2007195888 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1706 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Text] Santo Domingo, 20 Jul (DPA)—Today it was reported that a bomb exploded last night at the Dominican Concorde Hotel in Santo Domingo, a few hours after a meeting of the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN]—comprised of anti-Sandinist armed groups—was over. The explosion did not result in any casualties, and property damage was minimal.

According to reports, the explosion occurred at approximately 2130 (local time) in the room where the "contra" leaders had been meeting. A number of windows were shattered and a vehicle near the hotel was hit by several shards.

Although the contra meeting ended in the afternoon, several of the 54 delegates who participated were still in the hotel at the time of the explosion.

In the afternoon, antiriot police dispersed approximately 100 demonstrators who were protesting in front of the hotel against the presence of the anti-Sandinist leaders in Santo Domingo.

Contra leaders Adolfo Guerrero and Lionel Morales reacted to the attack in a statement to the Dominican press, saying that they blamed the Nicaraguan Government for the action.

Guerrero said that "the tentacles of Sandinism are responsible for the bomb attack," while Morales said that he has no doubts that the "action was planned and ordered by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega." He added that the action was "aimed at frightening RN members."

Meanwhile, Major General Nelson Jose Morillo Rodriguez, commander of the Dominican National Police, said that Colonel Ramon Antonio Gonzalez, who heads the intelligence service, will personally investigate the bomb attack. He stressed that the investigations will be carried out "to the fullest extent possible."

Contras Kill 7 Civilians in 19 Jul Ambush

PA2007181688 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Text] Counterrevolutionaries led by former Somozist Colonel Enrique Bermudez ambushed a civilian vehicle last night, killing seven people, among them several children. Reliable sources reported that this criminal act occurred 20 km from Matiguas, on the highway to Rio Blanco. Three civilians, including a 3-year-old child, were also wounded in the attack.

Casualties From Contra Attacks Reported

PA2107004888 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1810 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Report issued by the Public and Foreign Relations Directorate of the Defense Ministry on "21 July" in Managua]

[Text] Combat actions as a result of counterrevolutionary attacks on our troops:

1. Mercenary groups attacked our troops on 18 July in Chaguitillo, north of (Mohan), in the southern Atlantic autonomous region. Five mercenaries were killed in the attack.

2. Our troops were attacked on the same day at (El Desparpajo), south of Muelle de los Bueyes, in the southern Atlantic autonomous region. Four mercenaries were killed in this attack.

3. Mercenary groups attacked our troops on 19 July at La Rinconada, northeast of San Rafael del Norte, Jinotega Department. Two mercenaries were killed and one was wounded. Our troops seized an AK-47 rifle and a knapsack.

Terrorist actions by mercenary forces loyal to former Somozist Colonel Enrique Bermudez against the civilian population and economic targets:

1. Mercenary groups ambushed two civilian vehicles on 19 July in Paiwitas, southeast of Rio Blanco, Matagalpa Department. Seven civilians were killed and five were wounded. The following civilians were killed: Victor Rocha Chavarria, 7; Mariela Rocha Chavarria, 9; Gisela Linarte, 14; Laraciel Rocha Chavarria, 15; Pablo Salinas Rocha, 15; Ernesto Rocha Alvarez, 24; and Girela Castro.

The following civilians were wounded: Gina Rocha Chavarria, 15; Rosa Chavarria, 18; Dr Osvaldo Rocha Alvarez, 27; Bernadela Rocha Chavarria; and Inocenta Rocha Chavarria.

On the same day, mercenary groups murdered two peasants belonging to the Ernesto Acuna cooperative. Two peasants were wounded northeast of (La Dalia) in Matagalpa Department. The mercenaries later kidnapped four peasants at La Argentina, southeast of San Antonio de las Cuchillas, in Jinotega Department. The following civilians were killed: Felix Aguilera and Marcos Cano.

Issued in Managua, 21 [as heard] July 1988

[Signed] Public and Foreign Relations Directorate of the Defense Ministry

Envoy to CSSR Attacks U.S. 'Undeclared War'

AU1507184688 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 12 Jul 88 p 7

[CTK report: "Undeclared War of Imperialists; Press Conference of Nicaraguan Ambassador to the CSSR"]

[Text] Prague—In Prague on Monday [11 July] Bayardo Altamirano Lopez, ambassador of the Republic of Nicaragua to the CSSR, condemned the undeclared war of imperialism, headed by the United States, against Nicaragua.

At a press conference, held on the occasion of the upcoming 9th anniversary of the Sandinist revolution (19 July), he pointed out the continuing hostile actions by the Reagan government against Nicaragua, the purpose of which is to destabilize the situation in the country and liquidate the Sandinist revolution. He noted that Nicaragua has been developing great efforts aimed at a peaceful settlement of the situation by, among other things, consistent fulfillment of the Guatemala agreements. In contrast to this, counterrevolutionary forces have been violating the cease-fire agreements, attacking civilians, and comprehensively escalating the tension in the region. In this connection, the Nicaraguan ambassador spoke about the U.S. "Melton" plan, the aim of which is to provoke hunger marches in Nicaragua, thwart talks on a peaceful settlement of the situation, and set up a new, pro-American government in the country, which would ask the United States for direct military intervention.

Bayardo Altamirano Lopez highly valued the solidarity of the CSSR and the other socialist countries with the just cause of the Nicaraguan people. He underscored, among other things, the meritorious work of Czechoslovak medical doctors in Matagalpa and the annual help provided by members of the Czechoslovak Socialist Youth Union in the coffee harvest.

Envoy to Hungary on Achievements, Restrictions

AU2107070588 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 16 Jul 88 p 10

[Report on interview with Ambassador to Hungary Lizandro Alfaro Chavez by Gabor Horvath in Budapest; date not given—"Nicaragua: Unchanged Goals"]

[Text] Lizandro Alfaro Chavez is a writer and the current Nicaraguan ambassador in Budapest. In Nicaragua, this kind of duality is not at all considered strange, because this country is humorously also called "the homeland of the poets." Chavez gave NEPSZABADSAG an interview in his tiny office in Budapest on the occasion of the ninth anniversary of the victory of the revolution.

[Horvath] What were the Sandinists' ideas when they achieved victory on 19 July 1979, and what has been achieved of the original plans?

[Chavez] We clearly stated our major goals, even prior to our victory. We said that our revolution is anti-imperialist and aims to establish a mixed economy and political pluralism in Nicaragua, and that our revolution would like to join the Nonaligned Movement. However, U.S. policy and mainly the aggressive war launched against us with the help of counterrevolutionary forces have systematically obstructed the accomplishment of these goals. The need to defend the nation has curbed the importance of substantial issues in our plans because without securing our national sovereignty, we would not be able to achieve any of our goals.

We are celebrating the present anniversary under conditions that have been determined by the 8-year war. Our economy has deteriorated, and we have to allocate 50 percent of our scarce resources to national defense. The damage to us exceeds $3 billion. And the greatest loss which a country can sustain is the death of our compatriots. At least 50,000 people have been killed, many of them simply murdered. However, the Nicaraguan people support the revolution, despite these enormous sacrifices.

[Horvath] Who or what is the biggest obstruction to the implementation of the plans?

[Chavez] We know who prevents peace for the Nicaraguan people: the leadership of the United States. The people are also clearly aware of the fact that all the government's efforts are focused on achieving a negotiated settlement. This was also the purpose of the compromise agreements concluded in Esquipulas in 1987 and Sapoa in 1988 with the representatives of the

countries in the area and of the counterrevolutionaries. However, for the time being Nicaragua is the only country in the area which respects the agreements.

[Horvath] Why did the Managua government recently restrict the activities of the opposition press?

[Chavez] Every government is entitled to make use of its legal powers to protect the public interest. The opposition can openly advertise its opinions, but it cannot carry things so far as to question the constitutionality of our system. The program named after expelled U.S. Ambassador Melton concentrates precisely on encouraging the opposition not to recognize the legitimacy of the government and to demand the establishment of a "national rescue government." This program was coordinated by the U.S. Embassy so as to unite domestic opposition with the armed counterrevolution. The third factor would be the involvement of certain reactionary church circles. The recently restricted press organs have openly urged people to not recognize the government. A meeting of representatives of 14 opposition parties with Costa Rican President Arias Oscar, at which they intended to ask him to use his influence to ensure further U.S. aid to the counterrevolutionaries, was planned to be held precisely on Friday. This is also illegal, and when the radio station of the Catholic Church or LA PRENSA advertise such demands, at the same time they violate the law, too. Not one single country would tolerate people in its own capital supporting armed intervention against it.

[Horvath] What are the public bases of the opposition?

[Chavez] The most radical opposition forces are gathered in the Higher Council of Private Enterprise. A significant number of private entrepreneurs have taken a lot of money out of the country and are attempting to slow down production. In Nicaragua, they claim, there are no guarantees which ensure profitable private activities and there is no free market. Recently we have been forced to nationalize Central America's largest sugar producing plant, because its owners, who live in Miami, have been using only half of its capacity and have run down the plant. Our action is naturally presented as an attack on private ownership. However, every private entrepreneur can function in Nicaragua, as long as he does not violate the law.

[Horvath] U.S. Ambassador Richard Melton has been expelled from Nicaragua. However, his predecessor, Anthony Quaint, was recalled to Washington 4 years ago because he praised some measures taken by the Sandinists. In a few months, a new president will move into the White House. What does Managua expect of him?

[Chavez] Whoever the new U.S. president is, we hope he will discontinue the forceful implementation of a failed policy. We do not expect U.S. politicians to become Sandinists, but we require honest talks. We are confident that the international commercial embargo against Nicaragua will be eliminated, no further pressure will be exerted on large-scale international financial organizations, and that loans will be made available for Nicaragua. We are expecting a new U.S. policy because the previous one has proved wrong, not only in Nicaragua and Panama, but also in El Salvador and other countries.

[Horvath] Thank you for the interview.

Panama

Ritter Says Amb Davis Will Not Be Expelled

PA2007132888 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 20 Jul 88 p 24

[Article by James Aparicio: "The Foreign Ministry Will Not Expel Davis"]

[Text] Yesterday Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter assured LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA that the Foreign Ministry has not made any decision to expel U.S. Ambassador Arthur Davis.

"That is not a step that Panama will take," Ritter said when he was asked about the possible expulsion of the controversial diplomat, who has been accused in official circles of meddling in the country's domestic affairs.

Ritter explained that in Nicaragua's case, the expulsion of Ambassador Richard Melton "was a sovereign decision," but he added that the conditions in Panama and Nicaragua are not the same.

The foreign minister said that diplomatic relations "are not handled through imitation" and that Panama must not follow the same stance as Nicaragua.

Ritter played down the significance of the meeting that Secretary of State George Shultz will hold with the ministers of Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Costa Rica in August.

"Mr Shultz can meet with whomever he wishes," Ritter said, adding that the meeting to which Panama was not invited "is not a meeting of any international organization to which Panama is accredited."

Regarding Panama's reincorporation into the Group of Eight, Ritter said that there is nothing to say until the seven foreign ministers make a final decision, which the foreign minister said should be positive.

On PCC Meeting, Libya Visit

PA2007190188 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1753 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Report on interview with Foreign Minister Jorge Eduardo Ritter by Eduardo Martinez; date and place not given—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Foreign Minister Jorge Eduardo Ritter reiterated to the media that the United States has continued to violate the Torrijos-Carter treaties by holding Panama Canal Commission [PCC] Board of Directors meetings without the presence of Panamanian representatives.

It is known that the Panamanian Government decided to not participate in the meetings as a result of Washington's unilateral decision to change the site of the past meeting and its persistent refusal to recognize the Panamanian Government. The foreign minister said the following on the subject:

[Ritter] "I believe that was unacceptable, and we said from the beginning that Panamanian Government representatives would not attend if the United States persisted in the idea of inviting Mr Juan Sosa [Panamanian ambassador to the United States] to attend as the Panamanian representative to the United States. We said that the Panamanian representatives would not attend unless the United States agreed to grant the required visas to the support personnel of the Panamanian members of the Board of Directors.

"Therefore, in essence, Panama's failure to attend was due to the fact that the United States prevented the meeting from being held properly. None of the four Panamanian Government representatives attended. The United States did this unilaterally, and, in an indescribable act of arrogance, it has announced that it will continue to hold all meetings in the United States, since Panama did not attend. However, this constitutes an additional violation, because the regulations clearly state that the meetings should also be held in Panama."

On another subject, the foreign minister said that he had no particular comment to make on a recent visit to Libya by a Panamanian delegation, since it is normal and customary for a country such as Panama, which has relations with various governments, to send a delegation to any country:

[Ritter] "There is nothing so unusual in the fact that we have sent a delegation there as to merit comment. I repeat that we are in the process of replacing the ambassador who is assigned there."

Referring to Panama's return to the Group of Eight, the Panamanian Government representative said:

[Ritter] "I know that there has been great concern over the events in Panama. I believe that today's events are an important milestone in fulfilling our commitments to Latin America, our commitments to SELA, because today the president has presented to the Legislative Assembly draft amendments to the Electoral Code. That is an unequivocal sign that beginning today, Panama is beginning a process leading to the 1989 elections, which is, I repeat, a promise made not only to SELA, but to the Panamanian people."

U.S. Plane Drops 'Device' in Canal Area

PA2007224188 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1645 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Text] This morning a local radio station reported that U.S. Army personnel stationed in the Panama Canal area have carried out another irresponsible, negligent, and unprofessional act.

The radio commentator stated that U.S. troops conducted a massive search in Gamboa last night. Gamboa is located in the Panama Canal area and the troops were looking for a device that fell off a military aircraft that flew over the area. The soldiers used trained dogs and sophisticated equipment to find what presumably was a bomb. Fortunately, the bomb did not explode when it accidentally fell off the aircraft. Gamboa residents reported these events to the radio commentator and expressed their fear of the damage that the bomb could have caused if it had exploded.

The report is even more alarming after press reports this morning stated that the U.S. Southern Command received 300 multiuse vehicles. The report added that the United States is preparing far-reaching military actions from its military bases in Panama.

'Presidential Possibilities' of Noriega Lauded

PA2007161188 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 20 Jul 88 p 4

[From the "Political Arena" column by Baltazar Renan Aizpurua: "Noriega, Presidential Candidate"]

[Excerpts] Today I shall be brief, because much will be written about today's subject in the months to come. It seems that our professor and colleague, Mario Augusto Rodriguez, took the lead yesterday in his column in the newspaper LA REPUBLICA by bringing up the subject of the "presidential possibilities within the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party]," and giving us some names.

According to Mario Augusto, everyone who is observing the course of events in the country is wondering which citizens within the PRD could be considered "presidential possibilities." [passage omitted]

In my opinion, there are several Torrijist leaders with enough merit and qualifications to take on the responsibility of heading the presidential slate in an authentically popular alliance with the participation of all the nationalist, progressive, anti-imperialist, and anti-oligarchic forces.

However, the true guarantee of triumph is in the presidential candidacy of the one who picked up Torrijos' banner and has carried it firmly in the face of the aggression orchestrated by the most reactionary U.S. sectors, sectors that will continue conspiring to thwart our people's just desire to be the owners of our canal and to determine the fatherland's destiny by ourselves. To me, our people's democratic response, as a symbol of our sovereign independence [rebeldia] and dignity, is the candidacy of General Manuel Antonio Noriega, and I am sure that if the Torrijists were asked, they would give the same answer.

However, "Tony" Noriega's candidacy will depend on other factors, including his own acceptance, the results of tactical and strategic consultations, and the consensus of his comrades-in-arms, but it will never depend on the approval or rejection of any foreign power.

When I said, some lines above, that several Torrijist leaders qualify as "presidential possibilities" by virtue of their party militancy, patriotic work, and continuing enthusiasm, I was thinking of Ernesto "Toro" Perez Balladares, Tomas Gabriel Altamirano Duque, and current PRD President Carlos Duque Jaen. Enough for today.

Argentina

Problems Obtaining New Credit Reported

PY2007184788 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Text] The Argentine mission that is negotiating for new stand-by credit and fresh funds in Washington is having trouble because IMF executives have asked Argentina to pay the interest it owes on its foreign debt. Reliable spokesmen in Buenos Aires have said another problem is that Argentina has not reached an agreement with its private creditors over the financial resources needed to compensate for the expected balance-of-payments deficit for this year.

Argentina expects the IMF to grant a new stand-by credit of approximately $1.5 billion over a period extending until December 1989. Before granting any credit, however, the IMF wants Argentina to sign a preliminary accord with the private banks for approximately $2 billion of fresh funds that Argentina needs to compensate for this year's deficit.

In turn, before providing fresh funds, the private banks would like Argentina to obtain a bridge-loan—with the United States as the main creditor—with which to pay the overdue interest. The bridge-loan can be paid off when the IMF disburses the installment of the existing stand-by credit, which is approximately $225 million and which is still frozen. This installment, which corresponds to the first quarter of 1988, will be followed by two other similar installments before the end of 1988.

This issue will probably be high on the agenda of the meeting between Economy Minister Juan Sourrouille and Foreign Minister Dante Caputo this afternoon.

Official: 'Progress' in Talks

PY2107011188 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0037 GMT 21 Jul 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Jul (NA)—Tonight, through a spokesman, Economy Minister Juan Sourrouille reported that today in Washington the Argentine foreign debt negotiators completed a number of negotiations to reschedule the 1988 and 1989 maturity dates, and that in these negotiations "progress" toward reaching this goal has been made.

Finance Secretary Mario Brodersohn and Central Bank President Jose Luis Machinea, who were in charge of this mission, held talks in Washington with IMF and World Bank representatives and with U.S. Federal Reserve Bank officials.

Brodersohn and Machinea will arrive tomorrow, 1340, at Ezeiza airport, on Pan American flight 201.

"Progress has been made in the negotiations, although this does not mean that the negotiations have been completed," the spokesman said.

No additional information was supplied to support the opinion that the negotiations have actually progressed.

The brief official report seeks to counteract rumors that the Argentine negotiators had a difficult time in achieving their objective.

The brief report on Brodersohn and Machinea's visit to Washington confirms the expectation previously expressed by Sourrouille on this mission's chances for success.

The minister had said that he did not expect an overall agreement to be signed yet, only that progress would be made.

The Argentine Government's objective is to obtain a new stand-by [preceding word in English] loan for approximately $1.5 billion that will fall due in December 1989.

As a result of the difficulties that the economic leadership had in paying past interest and reaching the goals promised to be able to pay other loans, the possibility of obtaining a new loan depends greatly on the U.S. Government's political support because of its great influence on international financial organizations.

Negotiators' 'Early Return'

PY2107020088 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0050 GMT 21 Jul 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Jul (DYN)—Central Bank President Luis Machinea and Finance Secretary Mario Brodersohn are expected to arrive here at 1340 tomorrow from the United States where they carried out several negotiations with the IMF. These negotiations were designed to obtain a new "stand-by" [preceding word in English] loan for approximately $1.5 billion that will mature in 18 months time.

Although the Finance Ministry stated that the Argentine negotiators had made some progress in the negotiations, it never mentioned what sort of progress, taking into account Machinea and Brodersohn's early return to the country.

However, during the meetings held with U.S. Federal Reserve and U.S. Treasury authorities, the negotiators allegedly reached an agreement in principle through which these two organizations would endorse a bridge loan for Argentina in which several industrialized countries would participate.

They also discussed with IMF authorities the need to disburse the first portion of the "stand-by" loan scheduled for release in June 1988, for $225 million. This loan would cancel out the requested bridge loan. The bridge loan, in turn, would serve to update foreign debt interest with the creditor banks.

Moreover, the Economy Ministry has fully denied a rumor spread today saying that an IMF official visiting Argentina has allegedly recommended the implementation of a number of fiscal and monetary measures.

It must be pointed out that the recent fiscal and monetary adjustments—which the IMF considers essential for the budget—were mentioned by Brodersohn and Machinea in their talks in the United States.

Today's readjustment of electricity utility rates and of gas oil prices, which were undervalued in comparison with the December 1987 prices in constant value terms, can be included in the contest of the adjustments "suggested" by the IMF.

Thus, Argentina is presenting a realistic utility rate level before the eyes of the IMF, given that this subject and the state run companies deficit was discussed extensively with the IMF officials.

The IMF understands that in order for Argentina to attain its goal of keeping its deficit to 3.9 [not further identified] as established in its budget plan, new monetary and fiscal adjustments must be made, especially taking into account the devaluations that occurred during the first half of the year, particularly during the first 3 months of this year.

It must be recalled that a similar situation took place at the beginning of October 1987, when a mission had to travel to the United States to free the disbursement of a stand-by payment (which at the same time was tied to other creditor bank disbursements) for which the Argentine officials had to accept several IMF "suggestions" which were finally announced to the whole country on the 14th of that same month.

Caputo on Group of 8, North-South Relations

PY2107021088 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 2336 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Text] Today Foreign Minister Dante Caputo and Economy Minister Juan Sourrouille met to discuss the debt problem. Caputo announced that Argentina will sponsor an initiative at the Group of Eight meeting next October to promote the resumption of the North-South dialogue.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] What did you talk about with the economy minister?

[Caputo] We had some routine issues to discuss. We also discussed the upcoming Group of Eight presidential meeting that will take place next October. Argentina is preparing a document to be submitted at the meeting proposing the basic agenda for discussions with the industrialized countries. This agenda includes topics that affect our development. Many of our problems are directly affected by the political situation in the industrialized countries.

The industrialized countries showed a new political sensitivity at the Toronto summit. Therefore, we think it is convenient to begin a new dialogue between industrialized and less developed countries. We are preparing an agenda of topics for this dialogue. The document will be analyzed by the foreign ministers of the Group of Eight in August and will be submitted to the presidents in October. We hope this agenda will be the basis for a new North-South dialogue.

[Reporter] What are the new arguments the less developed countries can use in their discussion with industrialized countries?

[Caputo] Apart from showing our solidarity, we can talk about our national interests. The problems of the debt and that of trade affect industrialized countries as well. The debt reduces their export markets.

Each dollar we use to service our debt represents $1.50 that industrialized countries lose because of dropping exports. This shows that the debt problem and the development of less developed countries is not only a matter of justice, which by itself is enough justification for joint action, but it is also a matter of interest for industrialized countries.

[Reporter] You will shortly meet the vice chairman of the EEC....

[Caputo, interrupting] I met with him a couple of hours ago.

[Reporter] How is this meeting important for our relations with Europe?

[Caputo] We met with one of the vice chairman of the community. We discussed the development of the two regions and the new international situation. I think the world has changed a lot in the last 2 years. Europeans share this opinion. The new U.S.-Soviet initiatives have changed everything in the world. These initiatives have brought about the solution to many regional conflicts and the creation of many new economic conditions, especially in Europe. The new situation is different from what we used to see.

We discussed the formation of new integration processes, the incipient Latin American integration, and the advanced European integration. We talked about ways of consolidating these movements.

We discussed ways of strengthening not only our bilateral relations, but also the relations between the Group of Eight and the EEC. The Group of Eight and the EEC will meet for the third time in New York in September. [end recording]

Cocaine in Deodorant Cans Seized; 2 Arrested

PY2007140588 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1234 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Jul (DYN)—Today it was reported that customs and Federal Police agents discovered a novel method for transporting cocaine when they arrested two presumed "couriers" at Ezeiza airport.

A few days ago, a married couple was arrested as they were about to fly to Spain with a child. The couple was carrying a handbag containing almost 1 kg of pure cocaine.

The novel aspect of the case is that the drug was being carried inside spray deodorant containers that actually released a jet stream of deodorant when the container's valve was pressed.

Each can was found to contain a small amount of deodorant, while the rest of the can was used for carrying the drug.

The couple was carrying six "deodorant" cans, containing a total of 1 kg of pure cocaine hydrocloride. The police have not revealed how they discovered the clever trick, which is apparently unprecedented in Argentina or any where else.

The two detainees, whose names were not revealed, have been placed at the disposal of the economic penal Judge Dr Pellet Lastra.

Bolivia

Military Deems Congress Salary Hike Too High

PY2007153188 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 17 Jul 88 p 1

[Text] ANF—The Bolivian Armed Forces have deemed the salary increase of 93 percent that has been granted to congressmen, retroactive from May, excessive.

Official military sources have pointed out that the increase in the salary of congressmen has reduced the Armed Forces budget.

"The reduction is considerable," they emphasized, and will harm the normal operation of military activities and endanger their achievements.

The funds assigned to the congressional salary increase could have been used to meet the demands of the population or of the institutions that have programmed missions and routine duties, the Armed Forces sources said.

The government has asked the people and the institutions to contribute to the sacrifice; however, this effort should be shared equally by all.

The increase in the congressmen's salary was approved in the general national budget, which was debated at the end of June, but it was initially discussed at the beginning of the special congressional session.

The executive branch merely enacts congressional decisions because Congress is autonomous. Nonetheless, the complaints of the people must be heard.

We must recall that last week various labor, professional, and student organizations rejected the increase in the congressmen's salaries.

To express this dissatisfaction an hour of national protest has been scheduled for 19 July from 1130 to 1230.

Salary Payments Suspended

PY2007211388 La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish 1645 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Excerpt] The president of Congress and the presidents of the House and the Senate have decided to suspend the payment of salaries to lawmakers during the congressional recess, in the wake of the people's widespread reaction. ADN Deputy Walter Soriano said that there are only two possibilities: Either cancel the salary increase or impose a drastic reduction. House President Willy Vargas Vacaflor has ordered the congressional administrative officer to suspend the payment of salaries to deputies

[Begin Vargas Vacaflor recording] The leaders of the Senate and the House have agreed to suspend the payment of lawmakers' July salaries until the Senate and the House meet and consider the draft bills that have been submitted on the subject. Two or three bills have been submitted to the Chamber of Deputies. The most appropriate solution will be enforced because these draft bills must be considered under the method established by the Constitution. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Finance Minister on Economic Indicators

PY2007042188 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 18 Jul 88 p 1

[Excerpt] Today Finance Minister Juan Cariaga asserted that the country's current economic indicators "are highly encouraging," since we managed to accumulate international reserves during the month of June. The exchange balance shows an income of $94.6 million and an expenditure of only $57.3 [million], which represents a sign of confidence in the country.

The minister noted that the internal credit level is almost 100 million bolivianos less than in December 1987, which means that economic stability is increasing. Cariaga added that the important thing is that money issuance until last 30 June was well below the level of last 30 December. The minister noted that until last 30 June, Bolivia had only issued 380 million bolivianos, while it had issued 414 million bolivianos in December 1987.

Minister Cariaga also said that bank deposits in foreign currency had increased by 88 percent since December 1986 and in the national currency by 39.8 percent at a constant value. [passage omitted]

Soviet Mission To Study Flights to La Paz

PY2007163088 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 13 Jul 88 p 1

[Excerpts] Yesterday it was learned from various government sources that the Foreign Ministry is discreetly preparing a program to be submitted to a Soviet mission that will come to La Paz for 4 days. The mission will arrive on 31 July.

One of the agreements to be signed with the Soviets regards the possibility of having Aeroflot flights to Bolivia. The Soviet airline has been intending to extend its flights to Bolivia ever since the Popular and Democratic Unity Party came to power.

Reportedly, the Aeronautics Ministry, headed by General Jaime Zegada, is preparing a draft of the agreement to be signed on the Aeroflot flights. The ministry was instructed to carry out this task in the most reserved way possible.

The possible Aeroflot agreement and the other agreements that may be signed with the USSR have not been prepared by President Paz Estenssoro's cabinet.

This newspaper was informed, however, that Ministers Bedregal and Zegada have personally dealt with the Aeroflot issue. During a recent trip to Cuba, Bedregal discussed the issue in Havana with members of a Soviet mission.

Before his trip to Cuba, Bedregal was invited to visit Moscow, but President Paz Estenssoro did not authorize his trip to the USSR. [passage omitted]

Minister Bedregal also reportedly discussed trade agreements with the diplomats in Cuba. These agreements include the export of Bolivian non-traditional products to the USSR. The Soviets intend to offer again to Bolivia various types of machinery that has been refused recently by the mining and agricultural sectors because of its low quality.

Minister Denies Report

PY2107030488 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Aeronautics Minister General Jaime Zegada has reported to Radio Panamericana that the government has not authorized the Soviet airline Aeroflot to operate in Bolivia nor are there any negotiations for Aeroflot to begin operations.

The aeronautics minister said that the press reports stating that the Bolivian Government has accepted Aeroflot's request to operate in Bolivia are incorrect.

Zegada said that the negotiations initiated a few years ago by Aeroflot have not been expedited. [sentence as heard] [passage omitted]

Brazil

Finance Minister Seeks Support on Debt

PY2007142988 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 19 Jul 88 p A-27

[By London correspondent Antonio Carlos Seidel]

[Text] Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega has said that a $500-million emergency bridge loan put together by the 14 countries that form the Paris Club should be announced this week. According to Nobrega, the loan is necessary to pay interest owed to private banks until the IMF makes the disbursement of additional funds to the country.

Nobrega said that Robert Leigh-Pemberton, governor of the Bank of England (Great Britain's central bank), personally told him that only two more countries need to confirm their participation in the loan. Nobrega added that Brazil needs the bridge loan to help pay $1.6 billion to creditor banks for interest due in June, July, and August. (Brazil will use $1.3 billion from its reserves).

"Pemberton assured us that Britain would support the granting of the loan and our negotiations with the Paris Club, which are scheduled to begin on 28 July," Nobrega said. Brazil wants to refinance $17.5 billion over a 10-year period and also wants $5 billion in "fresh loans."

Nobrega said that he was very well received by Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson, who during their 20-minute meeting praised the Brazilian Government's campaign to reduce the fiscal deficit and promised to support Brazilian proposals during the Paris Club meeting.

Nobrega said that one of the questions asked most often by his hosts, and by British monetary authorities and bankers, was whether there is the political base to sustain the program of modernization and readjustment of the Brazilian economy. "In general, everyone who participated in the debates with us here wanted to know how broad a support from different sectors of society this government had to implement its programs," Nobrega said. He answered the question by emphasizing that President Sarney was convinced of the need for a program like this, and that the government has had the "clear" support of the business sector and the vocal support of various moderate political sectors.

Nobrega began the day yesterday by having breakfast with eight economic reporters of the most important British dailies. At 1000, he was received by Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson. Immediately afterwards he talked to a group of British bankers about the program for the modernization of the Brazilian economy. During lunch he talked about the same topic at the Brazilian

Chamber of Commerce in Great Britain. In the afternoon, Nobrega was received by Robert Leigh-Pemberton, governor of the Bank of England, and afterwards he flew to Paris. Everywhere he went he asked for understanding of the very delicate stage of the Brazilian political transition.

Nobrega said the information that made the best impression on British economists concerned the fiscal deficit for the first 5 months of 1988. The data for this period indicates that the deficit was maintained at a level of 0.85 percent of the GDP, as opposed to a level of 1.46 percent in 1987. This represents a 40-percent reduction of the operational public deficit. "It was considered a great accomplishment here," Nobrega said.

Minister Nobrega said that the Brazilian Government's success in bringing down the public deficit might be one of the factors behind "the good reception" he found on his visit to London. He added: "Confirming some preliminary information I had, the London banking community showed us much good will. I cannot guarantee that 100 percent of the British banks will support the negotiating package, but certainly the most important British banks will participate, particularly those with a long-term vision of their relations with Brazil. That is my impression."

The Brazilian minister then said that the British financial community agreed with his view that the public deficit is the basic problem underlying Brazil's inflation. He added: "It is very difficult for people who live in a climate of monetary stability, as the British do, to understand an economy in which prices increase at the rate of 20 percent a month. The fact that the annual inflation [rate] went up 0.5 percent last week caused serious concern among the British."

In his talks with British bankers, Nobrega stressed two points. First, the economic policy in force since last February is a "feasible" policy for Brazil's circumstances. To reduce the public deficit to 4 percent of the GDP this year represents a great effort to keep prices from increasing by 30 or 40 percent a month, as was expected early this year. Second, the 4-percent target for the 1988 public deficit will pave the way for a substantial reduction of inflation in 1989, with a maximum public deficit of 2 percent of the GDP.

Nobrega told the British bankers that the objective is to prevent hyperinflation. The minister said that "successes and failures are to be expected in a complex and indexed economy." He added: "July was a disaster, with nearly 23-percent inflation, but August should not show a trend toward loss of control." Declining to give a figure for inflation in August, Nobrega said that the situation in Brazil causes "discomfort," but "it will be worse if we panic."

Finally, Minister Nobrega affirmed: "We do not show signs of a loss of control over fiscal policy or monetary policy. The fiscal policy is showing results, such as the public deficit staying within established limits. The monetary policy is being implemented in a more effective way. Furthermore, there is no sign that inflation is getting out of control—unless something unexpected occurs."

Details on Brazilian-Soviet Exchange Programs

PY2007042588 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 19 Jul 88 p A-17

[Jose Arbex]

[Text] Moscow—The University of Sao Paulo [USP] has reached a scientific exchange agreement with the USSR Academy of Science Latin American Institute. The agreement is comprised of trips by Brazilian scientists to Moscow and by Soviet scientists to Sao Paulo. It also entails the exchange of publications and projects of mutual interest. The agreement was signed in Brazil by USP Rector Jose Goldemberg and in the USSR by Professor Viktor Volskiy, of the USSR Academy of Sciences. Professor Jose Alvaro Moises, from the USP Political Science Department, currently in Moscow, acted as mediator in this agreement.

The agreement, which is renewable, will initially last 2 years beginning in August. It establishes that each party will send a top-ranking researcher for 1 month every year. The scientists will give lectures, head seminars, and visit scientific research institutions. In addition, the agreement states that the parties will send one or two scientists for a term of up to 6 months each.

The candidates are to be selected by mutual agreement. The expenses of the trip are to be paid by the party that sends the scientist while the housing, food, and medical assistance is to be paid by the host country. Professor Moises told FOLHA DE SAO PAULO that "this agreement is highly productive because it opens prospects for developing vast works not only in the social science sector but in several research fields." On 15 July, Moises delivered a lecture on the Brazilian political situation at the USSR Academy of Sciences. He is also holding meetings with Soviet professors and scientists.

The Moscow International Institute of Journalists will offer 3-month scholarships to young Brazilian journalists. This was reported by Gennadiy Musaelyan, chief of the International Department of the USSR Union of Journalists. The scholarship is completely financed by the Soviet Government, including tickets from Brazil to the USSR, expenses during the stay in the USSR, and trips within the USSR. The journalists will also be able to work in publishing houses.

The scholarship is the result of an agreement that was signed in 1987 by the Brazilian Federation of Journalists (FENAJ) and the USSR Union of Journalists. Paulo Ribeiro, 34, FENAJ secretary general, and Robson Moreira, 34, and Elizabeth Costa, presidents of the Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro journalists union, respectively, are now in Moscow in response to an invitation extended by the USSR.

Drug Trafficker Operations, Routes Revealed

PY2007155088 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 19 Jul 88 p 12

[Text] Campo Grande (Mato Grosso do Sul State)—Yesterday Federal Police Regional Superintendent Roberto Alves said that following the breakup of three important cocaine trafficking gangs in Mato Grosso do Sul State, all of them based in Campo Grande, the state is being looked upon as an international drug distribution center.

The seizure of drugs this year, including small confiscations in the towns of Corumba, Dourados, Ponta Pora, Nairai, and Aquidauana, total approximately 700 kg. This means that an average of 100 kg of drugs per month have been seized in Mato Grosso do Sul.

The same sources report that the fight against cocaine trafficking is being rigorously conducted, but it is impossible to put an end to it because of the ease with which the drug can be processed and sent to other countries.

The fight will become more and more difficult in that producers and traffickers are now diversifying their routes and systems of trafficking, and now they have an ally: Paraguay, which Superintendent Alves termed as terrible.

It is very easy to obtain ether and acetone, which are indispensible for refining cocaine, from Paraguay, which has 400 km of dry border with Mato Grosso do Sul. The informers say the drug is commonly refined in various laboratories in the towns of Pedro Juan Caballero, Amambay, Concepcion, Presidente Hayes, Boqueron, and Nueva Asuncion, under the direction of a single man directly connected with the Medellin Cartel: the Brazilian Gerson Palermo.

Police sources believe that every month, 200 to 300 kg of cocaine leave Paraguay, enter Mato Grosso do Sul, and are then shipped to the consumer market, both inside and outside Brazil.

Most drugs are transported in private aircraft to the cities of Marilia, Bauru, or Presidente Prudente. From these cities, the drugs are taken as baggage in cars, trucks, or buses to Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro. If it is transported in aircraft, this will pose a greater risk because it will end up in public airports.

As for the cocaine that is totally processed in Bolivia, its shipment depends on the region where the drug is processed.

In the case of localities in the region of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, the drug is normally shipped through Mato Grosso to hotels and nightclubs. From production areas in the region of Puerto Suarez, the drug is sent to Corumba, and the large shipments are carried in boats or in aircraft that land on small airfields in the Pantanal area.

Both the Paraguayan and the Bolivian drug traffickers trade in cars and animal hides. The hides are taken to Bahia Negra, in Paraguay, 200 km by ship from the city of Porto Murtinho, in Mato Grosso do Sul.

In Bahia Negra, the Brazilian pilots unload the hides and load cocaine to be delivered in Aquidauana, Corumba, or Campo Grande, where the drug is stored for 3 days at the most, until it is sold.

The Bolivian drugs shipped to Brazil are the exclusive business of Roberto Suarez, a Santa Cruz de la Sierra resident, who also supplies the cocaine paste that is refined in Paraguay.

The cocaine paste shipments are usually consigned to another minion of the Medellin Cartel, successful Paraguayan businessman Arsenio Benitez Gonzalez, who lives in Asuncion. As for the pure cocaine produced by Roberto Suarez, it leaves Bolivia through Beni, Puerto Chiello, Mamore, and other coca leaf production regions, and enters Brazil through Caceres, in Mato Grosso do Sul. From there it is taken to Goias, Brasilia, or Sao Paulo.

Chile

Pinochet Silent on Possible Plebiscite Meeting

PY2107023688 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0124 GMT 21 Jul 88

[Excerpts] Santiago, 20 Jul (EFE)—Today President General Augusto Pinochet neither confirmed nor denied a report saying that the commanders in chief of the Armed Forces and forces of order will meet in the next 48 hours to appoint the plebiscite candidate.

Today the afternoon newspaper LA SEGUNDA reported that the military commanders have already decided on the date of the meeting, which will be revealed in the next few days.

Pinochet simply shrugged his shoulders without answering a journalist's question on this issue on his way to a luncheon with a group of supporters in La Serena, 472 km north of Santiago. [passage omitted]

Despite his silence regarding the imminent announcement of the meeting date of the military commanders, today Gen Pinochet said in a speech north of the country that "we are on firm land, we are arriving at the moment of holding the plebiscite."

According to LA SEGUNDA, the meeting will be held "by the end of August, which means that the plebiscite will be held on 5 October."

Merino on EEC, Church Statement, Plebiscite

PY2007032488 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Admiral Jose Toribio Merino, Navy commander and chairman of the Government Junta, said that the EEC is a mummified political structure with a good economy.

Merino made this statement after the regular Government Junta meeting this afternoon, in reference to the EEC statement on the legality of the upcoming plebiscite in Chile.

[Merino] "We have already answered the EEC statement, and I want to answer it myself. The EEC must remember that it is just—how can I explain—a mummified political structure with a good economy. But it should worry about its own affairs. We will continue implementing our policies here, in a sovereign and independent manner."

Adm Merino also discussed the statement issued by the Episcopal Conference regarding the plebiscite. He answered that this matter is not the church's concern.

[Merino] "I have talked enough about that conference which is engaged in matters that have nothing to do with it. Thus, I do not consider the statement important because we are the ones who should worry about the plebiscite, and we are concerned about it. We have said several times that the state of exception will be suspended at least 30 days before the plebiscite [words indistinct] with the communications media we are preparing a law that will be published very soon on this matter. This has been submitted by the executive branch after a proposal by the court. Thus, what we are doing in Chile must be known by all; there is a commission of bishops who are more concerned about the plebiscite than church matters."

Merino was also asked about criticism by opposition groups regarding the bill on electoral campaigns on television, that 15 minutes do give them enough time. The Navy commander said that if they want to pay for additional time, in addition to the 15-minute period, they can do so. He then explained his idea about this matter, an issue opposition leaders are now discussing.

[Merino] "What the opposition leaders are discussing now is how much time should be given to candidates and how much time for party members. Some want 5 minutes for candidates and 10 minutes for party members. Others want 10 minutes for candidates and 5 minutes for the others. There are many opinions about this. We are preparing a law to regulate this."

Regarding the international meeting of mayors that is taking place in Santiago, Merino said that it is a good idea. They have chosen this country because there is tranquillity, because this is a clean country, and because there is more security, he concluded.

Bomb Blast at Mormon Church Injures 3 Youths

PY2007185988 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Text] Three youths injured in the explosion of a bomb last night in a Mormon church are recovering satisfactorily. Last night at the chapel of the Latter Day Saints at 485 Admiral Montt, in the Cerro Alegre neighborhood, Valparaiso, 800 grams of ammonium gelignite which had been planted in the rear of that church exploded. Three minors were inside at the time. Luis Herrera, 15, and Miguel Salazar, 16, sustained minor injuries in their legs and are currently resting at home. The other minor, Nelson Perez, 13, was seriously injured with a broken arm. He received medical care at the Valparaiso first aid clinic and is doing well.

This attack was perpetrated by well-known extremist groups intent on intimidating ordinary people. This time, three youths were hurt, and parts of the church walls and windows were extensively damaged. The police are investigating.

Colombia

Gomez Hurtado Released on Corner Near Home

PA2107023388 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0212 GMT 21 Jul 88

[Text] Bogota, 20 Jul (EFE)—Tonight Social Conservative leader Alvaro Gomez Hurtado was released on a street corner near his home in Bogota by the M-19 movement, the nationalist leftist guerrilla group that kidnapped him on 29 May.

Gomez Hurtado was released within the 72-hour deadline set by the M-19, which was to expire at 0900 hours on Friday, 22 July.

"They left me here, on the corner," the politician told newsmen who were keeping vigil in front of his home, but they did not see the "Heroes of the Palace," a commando group of M-19 who released Gomez after 53 days of captivity.

With the release of Gomez, at 2034 (0134 GMT), M-19 kept its promise to release him prior to the "National Salvation Summit," which is scheduled to be held in Colombia on 29 July.

Barco Comments

PA2107033488 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0258 GMT 21 Jul 88

[Communique issued by President Virgilio Barco in Bogota on 20 July]

[Text] At 2000 today, 20 July, we learned of the release of Dr Alvaro Gomez Hurtado, who was kidnapped on 29 May 1988 by the subversive M-19. The president of the Republic and the national government are happy about the safe release of the prominent Conservative Party leader.

Free again, he has returned to his family, friends, and his work for the benefit of [30-second break in reception] Conservative Party, the newspaper EL SIGLO, and his friends is shared by all Colombians today.

The government will continue its struggle for peace [30-second break in reception] any efforts to continue seeking the reconciliation of [30-second break in reception] we urge all so the solidarity expressed [30-second break in reception] Gomez Hurtado's release will remain as a symbol to reject violence and seek a dialogue for democratic coexistence.

[Signed] Virgilio Barco

New Justice Minister Says Drugs Worldwide Issue

PA2107031888 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Text] Guillermo Plazas Alcid, the new Colombian justice minister and former member of parliament, was sworn in last night. At the ceremony, Plazas made statements concerning how he will lead his ministry.

The new justice minister said that in Colombia we are all threatened with death, from ministers to peasants. The seventh justice minister in 2 years asserted that what we experience in Colombia is not only the responsibility of judges, but of all Colombians.

[Begin Plazas recording] I believe the problem of drug trafficking is a worldwide problem. All countries must be involved in the struggle against drug trafficking. Colombia has a heavy weight on its shoulders. Colombia alone cannot carry that load. It is necessary to adopt new policies and measures concerning drug trafficking. All countries must commit themselves to the struggle against this problem because they believe this problem [words indistinct] like the disarmament problem or the struggle against nuclear weapons. Drug trafficking, however, threatens the existence of mankind itself. [end recording]

Medellin Cartel Blamed for Journalist's Murder

PA2007223388 Bogota Invravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Report by Marcia Martinez Guerra]

[Text] The Administrative Department of Security, DAS, has charged that drug trafficker Pablo Emilio Escobar Gaviria and other members of the Medellin Cartel are the masterminds behind the assassination of journalist Guillermo Cano Isaza.

The DAS confirmed that the Prisco gang carried out the assassination on 17 December 1986. Those involved in the action included Jose Rodolfo Prisco, David Ricardo Prisco, Jorge Arjiro Tobon, and Nabot Tobon. The amount of money paid for the assassination of the EL ESPECTADOR director was 3.5 million pesos, which was received by Maria Ofelia Saldarriaga, the mother of one of the assassins. The DAS said the following individuals committed the assassination: Luis Eduardo Osorio Bisao, who is dead; Alvaro Garcia Saldarriaga, also dead; and their accomplices, Edison Harvey Hill Munoz, dead, and Norbey de Jesus Alvaran Valencia.

The DAS also stated that Mr Cano's assassination was ordered as a result of his editorial that condemned drug trafficking and campaigned for the restoration of morals. The investigation of Guillermo Cano's assassination has been closed. It has provided new leads and evidence to clarify other crimes.

Peru

100 'Terrorists' Attack Police Post; 7 Killed

PY2007041088 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Text] Nearly 100 terrorists have attacked a police detachment in Pozuzo, Oxapampa Province. In the attack, four civil guardsmen were killed, four were injured, and three subversives were killed.

The brave policemen heroically endured the clash, which began at 0530 this morning and lasted for about 5 hours, until they ran out of ammunition.

The police detachment was nearly destroyed by dynamite and grenades launched by the subversives during the attack.

Police reinforcements arrived at the site at 1700. After the attack, the terrorists fled toward Panao in Huanuco.

Venezuela

AD Formally Nominates Presidential Candidate

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[Excerpts] Today Democratic Action [AD] formally nominated its [presidential] candidate before the Supreme Electoral Council. During a speech before top AD leaders and the highest electoral organization, Carlos Andres Perez defended the quality and propriety of the electoral process. [passage omitted]

He stressed Venezuela's trust in the procedure to elect the president of the Republic:

[Begin Perez recording] The pluralistic structure, the vote-counting procedure, and the guarantee to each citizen of his right to vote makes it impossible to alter the citizens' will as reflected in the elections. [applause]

It is extremely important to stress this fact, which Gonzalo Arrios, an illustrious Venezuelan who heads our party, prudently pointed out moments ago. [applause] [end recording]